

NEWS

For Immediate Release

United States
Department
of Agriculture

Forest Service

Cibola National Forest
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www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola

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CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST REMAINS IN PARTIAL CLOSURES

Albuquerque, June 5, 2006, – Cibola National Forest Supervisor Nancy Rose would like to remind forest visitors that many portions of the Cibola National Forest will remain in partial closure. “With the current hot and dry weather, fire danger remains **extreme** and warrants keeping a number of areas closed to visitors. Weather forecasters are predicting higher-than-normal temperatures with little precipitation expected.” Rose said.

The following areas are affected:

SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT: The following campgrounds and recreation sites remain open: La Cueva, Juan Tabo, Cienega Canyon, Sulphur Canyon, Doc Long, Dry Camp, Balsam Glade, Capulin Spring, Nine Mile, Pine Flat, and Oak Flat recreation day use sites are open. Cedro and Deadman Group Reservation Area Campgrounds are open. Sandia Peak Ski Area, Sandia Crest Electronic Site, Sandia Crest Observation Area, Sandia Peak Tram, High Finance Restaurant and associated facilities, and Sandia Crest House are open. State Highway 536 (Sandia Crest National Scenic Byway) is open. All major roads on the district remain open with the exception of Highway 165; most secondary roads will be closed. Forest Road 445 is open to foot traffic and authorized vehicles. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters are **NOT** allowed – **Cold camping only**. Smoking is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.

The following trails and areas remain open: those portions of Forest Trail 365 (Foothills Trail), including secondary trails associated with Forest Trail 365 and outside of the Sandia Mountain Wilderness; Sandia Peak Ski Area mountain bike/hiking trails within the ski area boundary only; the Crest Trail (Forest Trail 130) from the Crest House/Crest Observation Area to the Sandia Peak Tram and associated facilities; and Kiwanis Cabin Trail 94. La Luz trail will be closed. All other sites, trails and backcountry areas are closed.

MOUNTAINAIR RANGER DISTRICT: Red Canyon Recreational Site is open daily from 8am to 6pm (DAY USE ONLY – NO CAMPING) and accessible only through Forest Road 253. Please note all trails accessible from Red Canyon Campground are closed. All other campgrounds, trails and trailheads are closed. The Manzano Mountain Wilderness is closed. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed at Red Canyon Recreational Site. The Gallinas Mountains near Corona are open; however Red Cloud campground and Forest Road 99 are **CLOSED**. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal broiler, coal or wood stove **are prohibited**. All personal use firewood cutting will **not** be allowed until further notice. Extensions will be granted to individuals with existing personal use permits. Personal use firewood cutting will recommence when weather conditions permit. All vehicles must remain on Forest roads. Smoking is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.

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CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST REMAINS IN PARTIAL CLOSURES THROUGH MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
CONTINUED...

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MAGDALENA RANGER DISTRICT: The following campgrounds are open: Luna Park and Springtime Campgrounds in the San Mateo unit and roads leading to them. The south end of the San Mateo Unit is open south of

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West Red Canyon. The Bear and Gallinas units are open. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal broiler, coal or wood stove **are prohibited**. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed. All personal use firewood cutting will **not** be allowed until further notice. Extensions will be granted to individuals with existing personal use permits. Personal use firewood cutting will recommence when weather conditions permit. All vehicles must remain on Forest roads. Smoking is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or building. All other areas not mentioned are closed.

MT. TAYLOR RANGER DISTRICT: The following recreational areas remain open: Coal Mine Canyon, McGaffey Campgrounds and McGaffey Lake and only main access roads leading to them. Forest Development Road 239, which is designated as the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail access through the closure area is open to non-vehicular traffic by permit only. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal broiler, coal or wood stove **are prohibited**. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed. All personal use firewood cutting will **not** be allowed until further notice. Extensions will be granted to individuals with existing personal use permits. Personal use firewood cutting will recommence when weather conditions permit. All vehicles must remain on Forest roads. Smoking is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.

Some additional roads are open. Call the Mt. Taylor District office for additional road information. All other sites, trails and backcountry areas are closed.

The following restrictions apply to the Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands:

- Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, charcoal broiler, coal or wood stove **are prohibited**. Pressurized liquid or gas stoves, lanterns and heaters meeting safety specifications are allowed.
- All vehicles must remain on Forest roads.
- Smoking is prohibited, except within an enclosed vehicle or building.
- As always, fireworks are prohibited on all national forests and national grasslands.

For more information contact Mark Chavez, Cibola National Forest Supervisor's Office at 505-346-3900 or one of the following district offices:

- Sandia Ranger District, 505-281-3304
- Mountainair Ranger District, 505-847-2990
- Magdalena Ranger District, 505-854-2281
- Mt. Taylor Ranger District, 505-287-8833
- Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands, 505-374-9652

Additional fire information for the Southwest Area is available at <http://www.nmfireinfo.com/>.

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